

# The Washington Times

THE NATIONAL DAILY

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1918.

## Wishes for the New Year

If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain: Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.—Matthew, 17-20.

### FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Continued health, strength, and clearness of vision. He is the man that the people need for the year that begins, and they are lucky to have him.

### FOR THE WHOLE WORLD:

Peace, permanent and just—a chance to stop murder and resume the work of civilization.

### FOR THE ALLIES:

Victory which is sure. Injustice never triumphs in the end.

### FOR GERMANY:

An end of insanity, an end of the rule of Hohenzollern brutality through Prussian barbarism. Opportunity for the spirit of German poetry, music, science, to resume its work, free from the dictation of the Prussian spirit of murder.

### FOR THE UNITED STATES:

Continued energy in discharge of a world duty. Quick results, and back to the usual task made stronger by experience, and richer by Government ownership of railroads, an end of private monopoly of public wealth.

### FOR WASHINGTON:

Continuation of growth, prosperity, and accomplishment, such as no other city on earth can boast. The city of a half million is in sight, almost here. Soon will come the next hundred thousand. May there come with it that possession without which a city is like a man without a soul—CITIZENSHIP.

### TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES:

Patience today, better conditions tomorrow. May the Government whose work they do realize their needs and their claims, as it recognizes the needs and claims of strangers across the ocean.

May Uncle Sam play toward those that give their lives to his service the part of a good father and a generous employer.

We wish for Government employes just and generous pay in their working years. And when they have done their share, a just pension that will enable them to continue living here, watching the growth of the nation that they love at the Nation's Capital.

### TO WORKERS OF ALL KINDS:

Ever increasing prosperity, with better reward for honest work. May those that govern and those that employ realize that the house is made strong by the strength of its foundation, that labor is the foundation, good pay and cheerfulness the mortar and cement.

### TO MERCHANTS:

Prosperity and increasing usefulness in the great task of encouraging better production and accomplishing prompt and economical distribution.

May the merchants of Washington fight successfully against the heavy handicap of competition with Uncle Sam. May the national employer supply himself with assistants without disrupting the commercial organizations necessary to Washington's welfare.

May the merchants continue to accomplish the impossible, and render one hundred per cent of service, on a basis of transportation difficulties, coal difficulties, labor difficulties, ALL the difficulties with which the modern merchant must struggle.

### AND TO THE NEWSPAPERS:

A realization of the fact that not they, but their readers, are important; that they owe what they have and what they are to the readers and to the merchants that make newspapers possible.

May they occasionally put the welfare of the public above the welfare of corporations. May the prosperous among them remember that nothing dies as rapidly as a newspaper, once the public realizes that it lives on the little people and works for the big people.

For YOU, whatever you want most, if you are sure it will be good for you.

## "A Grouch" Writes on Prating Editors

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

More power to the pen of "A Grouch" who writes in today's Times so earnestly in complaint of the service of the Washington Railway and Electric Company. God knows the suffering public needs some one to speak for it. The newspapers seem unwilling to devote more to the cause than the space for amateur editors to discuss it. Perhaps editors are like trolley company presidents, who, riding always in comfortable automobiles, have very little genuine sympathy for those of us who must use the cars.

It was the lack of sand on the tracks that was responsible for the smash-up at S street and Connecticut avenue the other day, for the car dispatcher who arrived on the scene after it happened told me so, yet the only reference I have seen to the fact has been that of "A Government Worker." And in the meantime editors with kindly sympathy for street

car securities write with pious fervor of the great benefits we Washingtonians have enjoyed from the half-and-half system, or unctuously parade their knowledge of good books or astronomy. Why, oh why, is it that no one who professes to write or speak for us ever tries to get at the real sentiment and thought of the community? Of mere prating editors we weary.

A GROUCH.

Dear Mr. Grouch: I called attention to the lack of sand, and said a little of that material is cheaper than human life. If I recall, I read about the lack of sand in a news report of the accident. Don't you think it cowardly to attack editors under a nom de plume. It's like calling a man on the telephone and abusing him with a mile and a half of telephone wire separating you from him. You seem to have worth while views, and I would like to know your name and address. Yours truly, EARL GODWIN.

## In 1918 May This Be True—



"A universal dominion of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free."—Woodrow Wilson.

## Elizabeth Jordan's Article on New Year Resolutions

By Elizabeth Jordan

Here is a timely question: Dear Miss Jordan—Is there any real value in New Year resolutions? Does one ever keep them? The fellows in our club would like to know what you think about this.

J. F. C., Secretary.

FIRST of all, J. F. C., let me say that I am mighty glad the fellows in your club are thinking about New Year resolutions. It proves that you are good fellows. Then let me say, without my usual careful pause for deliberation, that there is a value in New Year resolution, and that there are those who keep them.

The value, of course, lies not in the date on the calendar, but in the resolution itself and in the impulse back of that resolution. The resolution proves that the individual has been taking stock of himself. He has discovered that he has this serious fault or that one, this serious lack or that one. He has determined to correct that fault or to supply that lack. The moment he makes this decision he has taken a long stride forward.

The fact that he sets about his task with the beginning of the New Year is merely a matter of tradition and of convenience. The first of the year is a fitting time for new enterprises of all kinds. Speaking figuratively as well as literally, we balance our books at the end of the year. We count up our profits and our losses. We measure our successes and our failures. We consider the lessons in these experiences.

Some of us stop at that. Others go further. Some of us compare ourselves in character with what we were a year ago. Knowing that we cannot stand still, knowing that we have either grown or deteriorated during the twelve months, we study ourselves as we were and as we are, until we see what difference the year has wrought.

Our Gains or Loss in Character.

Sometimes there is an exhilarating gain. Sometimes there is a perceptible loss. Sometimes it is hard to see any difference in ourselves. But there is a difference—of one kind or the other; we may be sure of that.

When we see ourselves in the clear light of this self-scrutiny the time for action has come. We have balanced our books and planned to cut down our expenses. We have gone to our doctors and promised to be more careful of our health. The last and biggest task is to promise ourselves a very definite self-improvement during 1918, and then to keep that promise.

One reason for the frequent failure to keep our resolutions is that most of us attempt too much. Sadly conscious, as we are, that not one thing but many must be changed in us, we attempt a radical making over. We promise ourselves the impossible. When we fail to achieve it, we become discouraged and accomplish nothing at all.

The thing for all of us to do, J. F. C., is to attempt less and accomplish more. On the last day of the old year each fellow in your club (and anyone else who wishes to start the New Year well), should write out a list of his faults. An average list might run like this:

"I am quick tempered.  
"I am impatient and irritable at home.  
"I am not lazy, but in business I have a tendency to postpone action, and this tendency is growing.  
"I am extravagant; it seems impossible for me to save money.  
"I am selfish; I do very little for others.  
"I have some bad habits—drinking among them."

At first glance, this seems a rather bad list, but it is merely an average one. Hundreds of young men who will truthfully write it down this month and then sadly gaze upon it, are considered fine fellows by their friends. They are fine fellows—most of them; but they could become far finer fellows by making and keeping just one New Year resolution.

By "cutting out" the drinking they would also, in all probability, cut out most of their other faults. There is little doubt that to the drinking can be traced at least the irritability and the growing tendency to delay in business matters. Perhaps it can also be traced the selfishness and the extravagance. One thing is certain. The young man with such a list will find himself a very different man in 1918 if from New Year's Day he "swears off" and keeps his pledge.

One Fault Often Explains Many Others.

Others of us, with long and depressing lists of faults, may make a similar discovery. Heading our list, or modestly lurking at the foot of it, may be one fault which explains many of the rest. Eliminate that fault, and an astonishing improvement is evident all along the line.

A girl who is at heart sound and fine may be so quick-tempered that she makes all around her unhappy—even those she loves the most. And many other faults lie in the train of quick-temper. A boy may be so thoughtless that he seems supremely selfish—and selfishness is the father of a whole brood of faults.

A really devoted husband and father may be so absorbed in business that he gives nothing of himself to his family. Unconsciously selfish mothers may be draining the lives of their children; thoughtless children may be making martyrs of their parents. Two of the most brilliant and successful young men I know are the sons of a father who worked himself to death for them. His income was very small—but he was determined to send his boys through college and to give them technical training afterward. He did it.

He eked out his salary by night work. He worked fourteen and eighteen hours a day, and his sons let him do it. They were not cruel; they were not ungrateful; they were not really selfish. They were merely very young and very thoughtless—until their father died of brain fever at forty-three. The tragedy opened their eyes—but it was too late.

Try to See Ourselves As We Are.

So we must look at ourselves, J. F. C. We must try to see ourselves exactly as we are. Then, when the worst fault in us shows its ugly head, we must determine to crush it.

In that, we are working even more for ourselves than for others. We ourselves are the worst sufferers from our own faults. We ourselves gain most by their elimination.

We pay life a high price for every self-indulgence those faults lead us to. Very often we sell in exchange for the ugly things in us, the love and respect of our friends. Next our self-respect departs, and with that our peace of mind and our happiness.

So conquer at least one fault in 1918, J. F. C., and encourage your companions to do the same thing. Let it be the most serious fault you have. Attack it as soldiers attack the enemy—and never forget that your strongest weapon is your will. If you fail once, or twice, or many times, don't give up.

With a strong will, you can conquer any failing. Every effort you make strengthens your will. Each victory you achieve will be easier than the last. Each will make you a better soldier and a better man.

"Go to it," J. F. C. And a happy New Year to you, and to all makers of good resolutions!

Note—It is impossible for me, of course, to answer in these columns all the letters I receive from readers. Signed letters I answer by mail. A great many of the most interesting letters, however, are unsigned. Let me beg my unknown friends to write me as briefly as possible and to send me their names and addresses. These will not be published.

If "Dures" and X. Y. Z. will send their addresses I will immediately reply to their letters. I shall also be glad to have the address of the woman who ended her letter, "For God's sake, don't forget me!"

Referring again to RAPHAEL SEMMES, now of the aviation corps, the Gov'nor writes that Semmes is a scrapper "and the first Boche who crosses his trail will think he has stirred up a whole nest of American Eagles."

Discussing the Potomac river water power problem, W. H. PHILLIPS, 1342 New York avenue, says:

"The fire of the electric company could be banked by January 1, 1918, and we would have light and power in abundance at a greatly reduced price. It is sufficient to know that President Wilson has urged Congress to make use of our water power, and there are few more valuable than the one at our door."

HARRY PEYTON has a good punch in this suggestion as to the patriotic attitude of the Potomac Electric Power Company, which files a service flag with 106 stars.

"It seems that the Public Utilities not only do not want to share with the public a period of depression, financially, but they are calling on the public to come to their help and they may maintain their excessive profits, pay dividends on watered stock, and make it possible to 'cut more melons' in the future. Why not take some of the past ungodly dividends and use them toward making up extraordinary war

expense conditions? Human greed would not stand for this! Repentance without restitution never gets anywhere."

A Christmas celebration! Four blank cartridges and a bullet. Result—A child killed because the mother did not know the revolver was loaded.

Another near-tragedy. A woman and her baby badly hurt because a motorcycle hit a trolley pole on the Benning road.

Revolvers and bullets should not be sold so readily to all comers; and trolley poles should not be allowed.

## Needed in 1918

Washington is on the Verge of Great Development. Do Not Let It Halt.

By EARL GODWIN.

Congress has the chance this year to do wonders for the National Capital. If that body will realize Washington is the main war shop the city will easily attain its proper place as a municipality. If Congress fails to take this fact into consideration, then we will continue to be overcrowded, underdeveloped, and in many ways uncomfortable. If we have the same care given to Washington's physical welfare and growth as the authorities give to a military cantonment we will be thoroughly satisfied.

The greatest gift in the power of the nation as far as Washington is concerned is the right of suffrage. Washington should vote. It should have representation in Congress and should make its own laws. Only when Washington has full suffrage will it take its place among the cities of the world. Let us hope the steps toward complete suffrage will be taken in 1918.

One of the first pieces of legislation from the Appropriations Committee will be the District bill. The Commissioners' estimates ask only for money necessary for a suddenly increased population. Of prime importance in those estimates is the request for adequate school facilities, and exceedingly important are the recommendations concerning school teachers' pay. For years the wage scale of the women to whom we entrust our children has been too low. Now, at the first chance, teachers leave their classes to take less responsible, but better paid positions. They are resigning in numbers which threaten the closing of some of the lower grades.

Another important matter is the recommendation for a two-platoon system in the Fire Department. The present old-fashioned method of imprisoning a fireman in his fire engine house day and night for practically a week at a time has been discarded in half a hundred modern cities. Washington's splendid Fire Department should have the benefit of modern thought and fire-fighting administration. The two-platoon system is recommended to the attention of Congress. Under this proposed system firemen spend half their time at home, which is little enough.

Another improvement will be placing all traffic policemen under one central authority, instead of dividing the authority among the several precincts.

The crying shame of Washington is the low-paid Government salary for the great body of efficient workers, Federal and municipal. So much has been said on this already that the pen almost refuses to write further. There is one fact, however, which can not escape even the hardest hearted opponent of a decent wage for Government clerks: No human being can live decently and raise an American family on the pitiful allowances doled out by the Government. This was true years ago. How much greater the shame today, when the cost of living engulfs the clerk and puts him further and further in debt. It is my earnest prayer that the year 1918 will see the United States Government throw away its policy of cheese-paring and pay its workers enough to live on with comfort and decency.

The movement for Government ownership of public utilities has assured proportions which promise complete results. Let us hope the outcome of the present gas and telephone hearings will not result in further burdens on the public, but instead a recommendation from the Utilities Commission that the Government take over those two activities. And let us hope that this Government, which is doing greater and greater things each day, will take them over and run them as they should be run.

Let us hope that the do-nothing policy regarding Great Falls will end and a masterful plan to dam the old Potomac will be drawn and that work on the dam will start this very year. In this great era of conservation and saving, no more startling waste can be found than the unharnessed light, heat, and power flowing away from us at the rate of a million dollars' worth a year. Harness the Potomac and it will work for the benefit of the people of Washington, running their electric light plants, their street cars and heating apparatus at a few cents a day.

## HEARD AND SEEN

Inside Dope On the Telephone.

Hello, Central; will you please suggest the wrong number I ought to ask for in order to get Main seven three nine four six?

The day after I published the fact that PARKER ANDERSON'S reading circle had contributed \$6 to charity, I received a letter from a Government clerk—a woman—who asked for that check on the ground that she had been saving up for a pair of nickel-dollar shoes, and couldn't seem to make her savings reach more than three dollars.

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Speaking of the gas company, E. K. FOX says: "Why not let them reduce their dividends until their gas products return to normal? I believe that if the excessive salaries, waste by poor management, etc., were reduced the reduction would make up for the excessive cost of materials used in manufacturing the kind of gas sold here."

He also suggests that it might open the eyes of the 1,400 or more stockholders if the dividends were passed for a period.

"The stockholders would realize the necessity of a representative board of directors and the value of keeping the books open for their information and in accordance with that portion of the code adopted for the control of corporations in the District of Columbia."

POLICEMAN ORIANA says he does NOT arrest that celery vender, as reported in this column, but merely sent the vender home for his proper license paper. Mr. ORIANA, who has been on the force thirty years, is one of the best men in the police service, and in addition to that he has a heart as big as a patrol wagon and doesn't arrest poor food vendors unless he absolutely has to.